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Action

Control: 9795

GER

Rec'd: March 22, 1954
11:42 p.m.

Info

FROM: Munich

SS

TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 194, March 22, 7 p.m.

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SENT DEPARTMENT 194, REPEATED INFORMATION BONN 71, PARIS 23,
LONDON 43

Re DEPTTEL 2591, March 18 to Bonn, repeated Paris 3212, London
4804, Munich 309

Assume forthcoming study Communist takeover Eastern European countries has same purpose previous study Baltic States viz. as political and psychological war weapon directed at Communist regimes. We trust every detail planning program will bear that objective in mind lest through accent on publicity objective inadvertently be jeopardized. Present plan to centralize operations Munich where public hearings would be held appears to us to run unnecessary risk playing into hands local and special interest groups to detriment committee's main objective.

Munich is headquarters major US propaganda instruments concerned exclusively with objective overthrowing or as minimum creating disaffection (#) interrogation Ripka by Jenner Committee. Hearing on Czechoslovakia and Poland if hekga* which almost sure raise issues that would provide these factions ammunition they seek against RFE/NCFE. They will be knocking at committee's door and trying influence it for purpose of capitalizing publicity-wise their own organs. Existing schisms among emigre groups will sharpen, thus hindering possibilities settling many these conflicts which only possible by quiet patient effort along lines pursued past few years.

In past Bonn Government has been able restrain expellee-refugee pressures on RFE, but publicity and new pressures alleging RFE contrary German interests could weaken Bonn's defense of RFE and reopen question RFE's freedom from German influence and even question operations German soil. This would inevitably jeopardize operations other two stations, Radio Liberation and VOA, one private other official, but both furthering US cause.

Department no (repeat no) doubt aware possibilities public hearings Germany will examine effect US policy decisions on Communist takeover Eastern Europe. For example:

State Dept. review completed

(A) Oder-Neise

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- (A) Oder-Neise Line.
- (B) Expulsion Volksdeutsche from East European countries.
- (C) Support Benes regime 1945-1948 which collaborated with Soviet Government and whose exiles now (repeat now) supported by RFE/NCFE.
- (D) Non-support of independent Slovakian state and;
- (E) Effect of wartime strategy on fate of Eastern Europe.

RFE, which can scarcely refuse to broadcast news emanating public hearings of committee, fears such material would deflect it from primary objective, also does not (repeat not) relish use Communist radios would make of such material. Moreover, for reasons of propaganda effectiveness to Czechoslovakia and Poland, Germany is bad point of origination for committee hearings on Communist takeover those countries.

Foregoing comments not (repeat not) meant fight problem. Last time committee here it discreetly and privately interviewed many witnesses from Baltic States. There was little publicity while committee here and none with respect material provided by witnesses. Questions now (repeat now) to be investigated are far more complex and full pitfalls. As minimum we feel any hearings here should be closed if to avoid opening Pandora Box.

To sum up:

- (1) If public hearings Czechoslovakia and Poland necessary, feel they should be held London, Paris but not (repeat not) Munich or anywhere in Germany.
- (2) If public hearings must be held Germany believe portion of hearings should also be held London, Paris in order diffuse spotlight otherwise falling on Germany (Munich).
- (3) If any public hearings to be held Germany hope the selection of witnesses can be kept strictly US hands as Bonn Government (if Oberlaender has any say) might well produce witnesses to further strictly German interests. Furthermore, any participation Bonn Government selection witnesses would become known and played up Prague Warsaw radio. Committee itself will have problem screening witnesses.
- (4) Kersten group should be fully briefed re snakepit they walking into including problem selection of witnesses.

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(5) In connection briefing hope they consider sending advance team directly and quietly to Munich, postponing for time being London, Paris stopovers.

LIGHTNER

SW:MEJ/5

* As received; correction to follow.

(#) Omission; correction to follow.

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UNCLASSIFIED RESTRICTED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

(SENDER WILL CIRCLE CLASSIFICATION TOP AND BOTTOM)

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

C-A-B-L-E

| TO | | INITIALS | DATE |
|------|------------------------------------|----------|------|
| 1 | <i>Gen Counsel</i> | | |
| 2 | <i>cofc</i> | | |
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| FROM | | INITIALS | DATE |
| 1 | CIA CABLE BRANCH (Ext. 3573, 3574) | MAR | 1954 |
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REMARKS:

EXPEDITE

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